

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE**SPECIFICATION****HILLSIDE DITCH****(feet)****CODE 423****GENERAL**

This specification covers the construction of hillside ditches. Construction shall be in accordance with the construction plans and these specifications.

SITE PREPARATION

All dead furrows, ditches, or gullies to be crossed by the hillside ditch should be filled in, if practicable, before construction begins in order to facilitate construction and to prevent seepage through the ridge. Obstructions that will interfere with the successful operation of the system shall be removed.

EARTH WORK

Hillside ditches shall be constructed to the lines, grades, and cross sections shown on the plans and/or staked in the field. The minimum cross section shall meet or exceed design dimensions, and the channel shall drain reasonably well.

The surface of the finished ditch shall be reasonably smooth and present a workmanlike finish.

Where necessary, topsoil is to be stockpiled and spread over excavations and other areas to facilitate restoration of productivity.

Every effort shall be made to protect the hillside ditch outlet. If a vegetated outlet is already established, the heavy equipment movement in the outlet area during construction shall be closely controlled.

SAFETY AND MAINTENANCE

A maintenance program should be developed to maintain ditch capacity, ridge height, and outlets. Ridges of hillside ditches can be hazardous for farming operations or mowing. Any hazards must be brought to the attention of the responsible person.

Land owners or operators, sponsoring organizations, and contractors are liable for damage to utilities and damage resulting from disruption of service caused by construction activities. The Soil Conservation Service makes no representation on the existence or nonexistence of any utilities. Absence of utilities on plan drawings is not assurance that no utilities are present at the site.

It is the responsibility of the land owner or operator to determine if there are buried or overhead utilities in the vicinity of the proposed work. They should take proper procedures to insure that the utilities will not be jeopardized and that equipment operators and others will not be injured during construction operations.